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line through the Simplon Tunnel, after having been advertised for April 1, 1906, is now reported as being postponed until May 1. After having been for a considerable time under discussion, the mode of traction between Brigue and Domo d'Ossola—i. e., on 40 kilometers (about 25 miles)—is reported to be electrical, in accordance with a decision recently made by the Federal Department of Swiss railroads. The Swiss system of traction now in use on the railroad Berthoud-Thoune, in the Canton of Berne, will be applied with up-to-date improvements on the Simplon line. The first two electrical engines, when delivered at the end of the year, will first be tried on the Italian electrical lines of the Valteline. Electrical traction on Swiss railroads is a new thing; but it seems only natural that Switzerland, so rich in 'white coal,' begins to utilize its wealth of water, and supercedes, by the power derived from it, the enormous quantity of coal imported from Germany, France, Belgium and England. This new trial of electrical power on such an important new line will be watched with keen interest. If successful, the new mode of traction will certainly be employed all over the country, and there may be openings for our manufacturers at home in that line."

*The Journal of the American Medical Association* states that the German national committee in charge of arrangements for the approaching International Medical Congress, to be held at Lisbon in April, will present the following two proposals at the Lisbon congress and urge their adoption: "1. The organization of an international bureau for the general medical congresses, which will act during the intervals between the congresses. The members of the bureau to be the presidents of the past and approaching congresses and the members of all the national committees. This central office should have its headquarters in Paris, and its task will be to preserve continuity and order in the arrangements of the congresses, especially in the making out of the programs, regulating the sections, appointing topics for discussion and selecting speakers to present the various themes, and the

honorary presidents, working always in co-operation with the committee of organization of the congress. Motive: The need for some international body to serve as a court of appeal in matters affecting these international congresses has long made itself felt, to prevent or smooth away differences that may arise between the committee of organization and the representatives of the special sciences. At the same time, such an international body would serve by regulating the relations between the great general congresses and the international specialist congresses, and also with the medical congresses in the different countries. 2. The general international medical congresses should be held not oftener than once in five years. Motive: It is generally acknowledged that the international congresses have lost in prestige of late years. This is due principally to the brief interval between them. In case they occurred only once in five years the preparations for them would probably be more carefully made, and more energy would be devoted to the solving of scientific problems, these forces now being drained away by their being called on so constantly for scientific gatherings of such kinds. Besides this, if the international congresses were not held so frequently, it would be easier to find suitable places at which to hold them." Waldeyer and Posner are chiefly responsible for the drafting of these resolutions. They are to be submitted to the various national committees for discussion in the hope that something tangible will result in the way of the desired reforms.

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

At the midyear meeting of the board of trustees of Syracuse University, Chancellor Day reported an increase in attendance at the university of 325 over last year, and the purchase of the Renwick 'castle.' Plans for a men's dormitory on College Place, to cost \$100,000, were accepted. It was also decided to expend \$100,000 for the erection of a new chemical laboratory. The board decided that the 'castle' be converted into a college of pedagogy.

PRESIDENT JAMES, of the University of Illinois, announces the establishment at Urbana of a new school of railway engineering. It will be opened for work next September. The school will have three departments, intended to cover the entire range of railway work. Aside from the faculty in the various departments, prominent railway officials will give special courses to emphasize the value and the practical features of the curriculum.

At the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, on January 24, public announcement was made of a change in the organization of the agricultural work of the Pennsylvania State College which, it is understood, has been in contemplation for some time. The investigations in animal nutrition with the respiration calorimeter which have been carried on by the Experiment Station for the past seven years in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture are, under the new arrangement, to constitute a separate department of the college, to be called the Institute of Animal Nutrition. Dr. H. P. Armsby is to be the director of the new department and is to be relieved of executive duties so as to enable him to devote his entire time to this special line of work. The duties of the director of the Experiment Station and of dean of the School of Agriculture are to be combined and the dual position filled by a new appointment, which, it is expected, will be announced in the near future.

THE recently completed Agricultural Hall of the University of Nebraska was formally dedicated on January 23, 1906. The principal address was given by the Honorable William G. Whitmore, regent of the university. The building is of gray brick construction, with solid oak finishing internally. It contains the agricultural library, an auditorium, and class rooms and laboratories for most of the departments in the University School of Agriculture. The administration building is nearing completion. Its construction is of plain brick with ornamental terra cotta finish. It is to contain the offices of the chancellor, deans of the colleges, university registrar, treasurer,

secretary, superintendent of grounds and buildings, etc.

THE new administration building of the University of California, for which the last legislature made an appropriation of \$250,000, has been dedicated with addresses by President Wheeler, Governor Pardee and others.

THE entire main building (including the library and the physical and chemical laboratories) of the Fifth District Agricultural School of Alabama, was destroyed by fire on January 5. Nearly all the laboratory apparatus and the Experiment Station library were saved. The academic operations are continued as before in other quarters. The loss is about half covered by insurance.

THE position of research assistant in serum pathology in Indiana University for 1906-1907 is open for applicants. Candidates must have completed at least two years' work in a medical school of high grade, and must have a fair knowledge of bacteriology, of general pathology and of volumetric and gravimetric methods of quantitative chemistry. Preference will be given a medical graduate. Address: Department of Pathology and Bacteriology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

ABRAM W. HARRIS, president of the Jacob Tome Institute, Port Deposit, Md., has been elected president of Northwestern University, to succeed Dr. Edmund Janes James, now of the University of Illinois.

THE president of the board of education has appointed Professor W. W. Watts, M.A., F.R.S., of Birmingham University, to the professorship of geology, at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, vacant by the retirement of Professor Judd.

THE council of King's College, London, has elected Mr. Harold A. Wilson, D.Sc., M.A. (Cambridge), as professor of physics in succession to Professor W. A. Adams, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

DR. F. HIMSTEDT, professor of physics, has been elected prorektor of the University of Freiburg.